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originated in the Devonian and flourished in the lower and upper Culm in Basse-Loire and during the Westphalian in the north.—A. C. NOÉ.

Availability of potassium.—BREAZEALE and BRIGGS³⁴ find that the potassium of orthoclase solutions is not available for wheat seedlings, owing, it is concluded, to the potassium being present with other elements in a complex solute molecule, which does not yield potassium ions. This conclusion is supported by the fact that oxidation with acids makes the potassium available. From the experiments recorded in the paper, the general conclusions are drawn that the concentration of a plant food in the soil solution is not necessarily a measure of its availability for the plant, and that applying finely ground orthoclase to a soil does not immediately increase the available potash content of the soil. While the conclusions are probably justified, it must not be concluded from experiments of this kind that plants cannot get the needed potassium from finely ground orthoclase applied to the soil or from orthoclase found naturally in the soil. The nature of the root system and the conditions of its functioning are probably quite different in the solution than in the soil.—S. V. EATON.

Indian Gondwana plants.—A great majority of the specimens described in this volume were figured by FEISTMANTEL in the *Palaeontologia Indica*. A revision³⁵ of the material brought to light some new features, and in several instances has revealed inaccuracies in the illustrations accompanying FEISTMANTEL's descriptions. Numerous text illustrations and seven plates in folio with excellent drawings and photographs enable the reader to judge SEWARD's revision of Gondwana plants. SEWARD was ably assisted by SAHNI, who promises to become an authority on Indian paleobotany.

The Gondwana system is an extremely interesting geologic period of high paleobotanic importance. It corresponded to the Permo-Carboniferous of Europe, and is distinguished by paleozoic glaciation features. The Gondwana flora is characterized by a wealth in gymnosperms, especially Cycadophyta. The present volume describes eight species of Bennettitales, and seven species of Nilssoniales; also numerous Cordaitales, Ginkgoales, and Coniferales are represented, but the pteridophytes are rather scarce. No *Glossopteris* is mentioned.—A. C. NOÉ.

New method of vegetative multiplication.—DASTUR and SAXTON³⁶ have described a method of vegetative multiplication in a perennial species of

³⁴ BREAZEALE, J. F., and BRIGGS, L. J., Concentration of potassium in orthoclase solutions not a measure of its availability to wheat seedlings. Jour. Agric. Res. 20:615-621. 1921.

³⁵ SEWARD, A. C., and SAHNI, B., Indian Gondwana plants: A revision of Palaeontologia Indica. New Series 7:1-42. pls. 1-7. 1920.

³⁶ DASTUR, R. H., and SAXTON, W. T., A new method of vegetative multiplication in *Crotalaria burhia*. New Phytol. 20:228-233. figs. 4. 1921.